THE SUNDAY OKLAHOMAN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2001

PARADE

New York City firefighters raise the flag at Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan. Perhaps more than any other, this image symbolized the best and worst of 2001.

OUR ANNUAL YEAR-END ROUNDUP

The Best & Worst Of Everything

Want the facts? Opinion? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Walter Scott's Personality Parade

Q Ricky Martin suddenly disappeared. Where has he gone? —Carol Smale, Tavares, Fla.

Martin in busier days: For the moment, he's living la vida laid-back.

A On his first vacation in 10 years. After a world tour to promote his CD *Sound Loaded*, Martin kicked back with friends at his South Florida home and spent time with his family in Puerto Rico. The singer, who turned 30 last week, says he'll make a new CD in January. He did record a single recently with Michael Jackson, "What More Can I Give." And he's still hoping to realize his dream of creating a role in a Broadway musical.

Q I was delighted to see Cathy Moriarty, who starred as Robert De Niro's wife 20 years ago in *Raging Bull*, make a comeback in a recent episode of *Law & Order*. What's she been up to lately? —Victor Thomas, Portland, Ore.

Moriarty: Glam mom

A Still glamorous at 41, Cathy Moriarty-Gentile (she's married to financier Joseph Gentile) is the mother of year-old twins, Catherine Patricia and Joseph John, and a newborn, Annabella Rose. She lives on Long Island, N.Y., and owns a chain of pizza parlors in L.A. Though she plans to take time off to raise her children, she does not rule out doing voice-overs for animated films in her husky, distinctive New York accent.

Q Which President first used a speechwriter? —Gail Johnson, Duluth, Minn.

A Presidents have relied on rhetorical assistance since Washington's days, but Warren G. Harding hired the first *official* speechwriter, Judson Welliver, in 1921, titling him Literary Executive Secretary to the President.

Q Whatever happened to Dooley Wilson, the singing pianist, Sam, in *Casablanca*? —Gene Fierce, Spokane, Wash.

A Wilson died in 1953 at 59. He almost didn't get the role of Sam, because Wilson was a drummer, not a pianist. His playing had to be dubbed by a studio musician. *Casablanca* (1942) was his screen debut, but Wilson also appeared in *Stormy Weather* (1943), *Come to the Stable* (1949) and *Passage West* (1951). By the way, Humphrey Bogart never said, "Play it again, Sam."

Q Dean Martin had several ex-wives. Did he provide for them in his will? —Audrey Reinhart, Longview, Tex.

The late Dino: Trust us, his exes and kids are OK financially

A Yes. Before dying in 1995 at age 78, the crooner (born Dino Paul Crocetti) created a trust for his surviving exes and children. There are two living exes: second wife Jeanne Riegger (1949-72), the mother of three of his kids, and third wife Catherine Mae Hawn (1973-76), a model with whom he adopted one child. Wife No. 1, Betty McDonald (1940-49), the mother of four of Martin's children, is dead.

Q I know Salma Hayek will play Mexican artist Frida Kahlo in a film. Is it true Antonio Banderas will be her husband, Diego Rivera? —Kathy Basto, Portland, Conn.

Hayek and Banderas: Just friends—both in real life and in the upcoming biopic about Mexican artist Frida Kahlo

A No. Banderas, a friend of Hayek, took a small role in *Frida* as the Mexican artist David Siqueiros. The role of Rivera, whom Kahlo wed twice, went to Alfred Molina. The film, due out next year, also features Hayek's real beau, Ed Norton, as Nelson Rockefeller. Madonna and Jennifer Lopez both abandoned plans to play Kahlo, who died in 1954 at 47.

Q You wrote that Yasmine Bleeth is only 33. How could that be? I saw her on TV in the '70s. —J.T., Moriches, N.Y.

Bleeth: Cops say she's of legal age

A Documents provided to PARADE by police in Romulus, Mich., where Bleeth recently received probation on drug charges, show that the star was born on June 14, 1968—making her 33. If her face seems long familiar to you, it may be because she was doing commercials when she was 5, posed for famed photographer Francesco Scavullo at 7 and got a recurring role in a TV soap as a teen.

Q I was a big fan of Jack Ford on NBC's *Weekend Today*. What's he doing now? —Glenda Stanley, Williamstown, W.Va.

A Ford, 51, joined ABC in 1999, expecting to replace Charles Gibson on *Good Morning America*. But Gibson, who originally agreed to co-anchor with Diane Sawyer for just a few months, decided to stay on, leaving Ford stranded. Also, Ford's wife, Dorothy, and son, Colin, 14, were injured in an April car crash, and Ford chose to stay home and take care of them. He's still with ABC News, considering his options.

Kim-n-Em: No longer appearing as Alec Baldwin's wife, Basinger signs on as the bad-boy rapper's...mom?

Q Kim Basinger has kept a low profile since her divorce from Alec Baldwin. What has this talented actress been doing? —Leonard L., Harrisburg, Pa.

A Basinger, 48, will portray Eminem's mom in an as-yet-untitled movie loosely based on the rapper's life. (Kim and Em, 29, may have an off-camera relationship too—they've been spotted canoodling recently in L.A.) Basinger also will appear with Al Pacino in *People I Know*, about a down-on-his-luck publicist.

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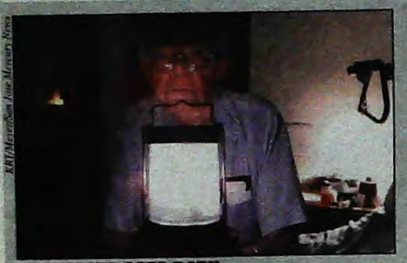
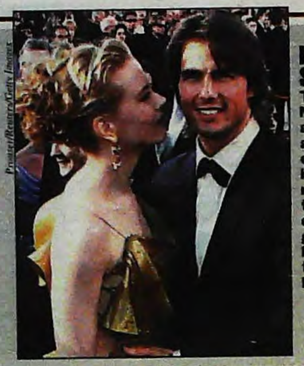
Eligibility: This game is open only to legal residents of the 50 United States & the District of Columbia, 18 years of age or older. Employees, officers & directors of Sears, Roebuck and Co. (hereafter the "Sponsor"), its parent company, subsidiaries, affiliates, retail locations, suppliers, distributors, advertising & promotion agencies, & Project Support Team, Inc. & their immediate family members (including spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, & children) & those living in their same households, are not eligible to enter or win. Game subject to all federal, state & local laws & is void where prohibited. **Three Ways To Play:** (1) You will receive a Game Card in-store in the Home Appliances Department, while supplies last, when you purchase an eligible major appliance (stove, oven, oven-hood, cook top, trash compactor, freezer, microwave, refrigerator, washer, dryer or dishwasher) at a participating Sears store any time from 12/26/01 through 1/5/02; (2) To play online, purchase an eligible major appliance (as listed above) at the Sears web site at www.Sears.com/appliances. Purchases must be made between 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time ("EST") on 12/26/01 & 11:59 p.m. EST on 1/5/02. Upon Sears' verification of your credit card transaction (which takes up to 6 hours from time of your completion of an online purchase), you will receive an e-mail containing a link to the Sears Olympic Winter Games Instant Win Game link. When you click on that link, you will receive an online Game Piece, while supplies last. Limit one online Game Piece per person/e-mail address per major appliance purchased; (3) For a free Game Card by mail (while supplies last) & a copy of these rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope ("SASE"), (VT residents may omit return stamp) to be received by 1/11/02 to: Sears Olympic Winter Games Game Card Request, P.O. Box 13164, Bridgeport, CT 06673-3164. Only 1 request per stamped outer mailing envelope. **To Determine If You Are A Winner:** If you have a Game Card, gently rub off the concealed area with a coin to reveal game message. If you are a winner, the game message on your Game Card will indicate prize won, subject to verification & compliance with these rules. All other game messages will read, "Sorry, not a winner." If you play the game online, use your mouse to electronically "scratch off" the indicated area marked "scratch here" on the online Game Piece. If the words "Instant Winner" & a prize description appear, you are the winner of that prize, subject to verification & compliance with these rules. All others will read, "Sorry, not a winner." Purchasing an eligible product will not increase your chances of winning. **Prizes/Odds:** (1) Grand Prize: 6-day/5-night trip for 4 to the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, UT, consisting of round-trip coach air transportation from major U.S. airport nearest winner's home in the U.S., 5 nights standard double occupancy hotel accommodations (2 rooms), Olympic Events tickets (no events on arrival day 2/20/02, 1 event on 2/21/02, which will be the Women's Figure Skating finals where the winner & his/her guests will be the guests of Dorothy Hamill, 2 events on each of the next 3 days & no events on departure day, 2/25/02), & a total of $6,000 cash. Approximate Retail Value ("ARV") of complete prize $26,050. (Odds: 1 in 1,006,100). Grand Prize trip must be taken on specified dates (2/20/02 – 2/25/02); winner & guests must travel on same itinerary. (10) First Prizes: Winner's choice of any Kenmore Elite Product. ARV: $2,000 ea. (Odds: 1 in 100,610). (100) Second Prizes: $500 Sears shopping spree. ARV: $500 ea. (Odds: 1 in 10,061). Total ARV of all prizes = $96,050. **To Claim A Prize:** If you have a winning Game Card that you received in a Sears store or by mail, sign your name (using an ink pen), photocopy your Game Card for your records, print your name, address, age, day & evening telephone numbers on a 3" x 5" paper, & mail it along with your original Game Card via registered mail, return receipt requested to: Sears Olympic Winter Games Prize Claim, c/o Project Support Team, 100 Mill Plain Rd., Danbury, CT 06811-5178. All mailed prize claims must be received by 1/25/02. If you reveal a prize with your online Game Piece, you will immediately receive a winner notification page & you will be contacted by e-mail that day and by phone within 3 business days of receiving your winner notification e-mail. The use of any device to automate the entry process is strictly prohibited. A valid e-mail address is necessary to play online. Each play will be declared made by the authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at the time of play. "Authorized account holder" is defined as the natural person who is assigned to the e-mail address by an Internet access provider, online service provider or other organization (e.g., business, educational institution, etc.) that is responsible for assigning e-mail addresses for the domain associated with the submitted e-mail address. Proof of being authorized account holder may be required. All Game Cards & online Game Pieces are subject to verification by an independent judging organization whose decisions are final & binding on all matters relating to this Game. There is a limit of one claimant's name per winning Game Card or Game Piece. Participants assume all risk of loss, damage, destruction, delay and/or misdirection of mailed materials. All materials submitted become property of Sponsor & will not be returned. Non-winning claims will not be acknowledged. Proof of mailing is not proof of Game Card delivery. If you are a First or Second Prize winner, once you have been verified as a winner by the judges, you will receive the prize indicated on your Game Card or shown in the Game Piece instant message you received online within 6-8 weeks of judge's receipt of all prize documentation. **2nd Chance Drawing:** Unclaimed prizes not awarded in instant win game (if any) will be awarded in a 2nd Chance random drawing to be conducted by Project Support Team, Inc. on or about 1/28/02 from among all eligible entries received for this drawing. To enter the 2nd Chance Drawing, hand print your name, address, daytime & evening phone numbers & e-mail address, if any, on a 3"x5" piece of paper & mail it to be received by 1/25/02 to: Sears Olympic Winter Games 2nd Chance Drawing, P.O. Box 13165, Bridgeport, CT 06673-3165. Limit one entry per First Class-stamped outer envelope. Odds of winning in 2nd Chance Drawing depend on number of unclaimed prizes & number of eligible entries received. Mechanically reproduced entries will be void. Winners will be notified by mail. **General:** By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules & the decisions of the judges, which are final & binding in all respects. Sponsor not responsible for late, damaged, stolen, incomplete, illegible, postage due, lost or misdirected requests for Game Cards, prize claims, entries, overnight or regular mail or for lost electronic transmissions, interrupted or unavailable network, server or other connections, miscommunications, failed computer hardware or software or telephone transmissions or technical failures, garbled, misrouted, scrambled transmissions or other errors or problems of any kind whether mechanical, human or electronic; or for printing or other errors appearing in these rules or other sweepstakes materials. Any attempt by an entrant to deliberately damage any web site or undermine the legitimate operations of this game is a violation of criminal and/or civil laws & should such an attempt be made, Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages & other remedies to the fullest extent permitted by law. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to void suspect entries or to modify, cancel, terminate or suspend this game (or any portion thereof) should virus, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes beyond the control of Sponsor corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper play of the game &, in the event of cancellation, suspension or termination, at its discretion, select winner from all eligible, non-suspect entries received prior to event requiring such cancellation, termination or suspension. Any Game Card request, entry, prize claim or Game Card or online Game Piece that is defaced, mutilated, forged, illegible, altered, tampered with, mechanically reproduced or which contains printing or other errors, or is not legitimately obtained is void. In the event the number of winning Game Cards received or winning online Game Pieces issued for any prize level exceeds the number of prizes listed for that level, Sponsor reserves the right to conduct a random drawing from among all eligible prize claims received for that prize level to award the listed number of prizes. Only the published number of prizes stated in these Official Rules will be awarded. Sponsor's sole liability for defective Game Cards or online participation is replacement with another Game Card. No transfer, assignment, cash redemption or substitution of prizes except by Sponsor due to prize availability & then with a prize of equal or greater value. Taxes & any other expenses not specified herein will be the responsibility of the individual winners. If after Grand Prize winner has traveled to Salt Lake City, the 2002 Olympic Winter Games are cancelled, closed to the public or postponed for any reason, Grand Prize winner will receive tickets to the Games on the rescheduled date (if reasonably available to Sponsor) but no further travel compensation. If cancellation occurs prior to winner's travel, Sponsor will endeavor to reschedule complete prize trip, but if Olympics are cancelled or closed, Sponsor will reschedule travel portion only of prize, and no compensation will be given for Events not attended. If for any reason Dorothy Hamill cannot host the winner & his/her guests at the Women's Figure Skating finals, Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to either substitute another athlete as host or to have the winner & guests attend the event without a host. Grand and First Prize Winners (or parent/legal guardian of minor winners) will be required to execute & return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release & (where legal) Publicity Release. Grand Prize winner's affidavit & releases, which will be sent to winner via overnight express with a prepaid return overnight express envelope enclosed, must be returned within 4 days of issuance of notification. First Prize winners' affidavits must each be returned within 10 days of issuance of notification. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to parent or legal guardian. Minor winner & any guests who are minors must travel with parent or legal guardian. Travel companions will be required to execute a Liability & (where legal) Publicity Release prior to issuance of travel documents. Parent/legal guardian of a minor travel companion must complete releases on guest's behalf. Noncompliance with any of the foregoing or if any prize notification is returned as undeliverable will result in disqualification & awarding of prize to an alternate winner selected from among the eligible second chance entries. By participating, entrants agree that if a winner: 1) Sponsor, its parent company, affiliates, distributors, subsidiaries, retailers & advertising & promotion agencies shall have the right & permission to use (unless prohibited by law) their name, voice, city/state of residence, photograph and/or likeness for advertising and/or trade and/or any other purpose in any media or format now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission or notification & 2) they understand & assume the risks of travel & attendance at public events such as the Olympic Winter Games, and 3) the aforestated parties & all of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives, & agents shall have no liability & will be held harmless by entrant for any liability, loss, injury, or damage to themselves or any other person or entity, including personal injury, death, or damage to personal or real property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of a prize & any travel related thereto or participation in this Sweepstakes. **Winners' List:** For a list of winners, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for receipt by 3/11/02 to: Sears Olympic Winter Games Winners' List, P.O. Box 13106 Bridgeport, CT 06673-3106. **Sponsor:** Sears, Roebuck and Co., 3333 Beverly Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60179. **Administrators:** Project Support Team, Inc., Danbury CT 06811. **Online Administrators:** Wunderman, 675 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10010



CALIFORNIA GOES DARK
More than 2 million Californians were affected by rolling blackouts in January, due to energy shortages. Some, like the man above, bought rechargeable lanterns.

TIGER WOODS DOES IT AGAIN
The phenom won the 65th Masters tournament, becoming, at 25, the first pro golfer to win four consecutive major professional championships.



HOLLYWOOD SPLIT
Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman abruptly announced the end of their high-profile marriage, as the tabloids continued to gossip about how and why the romance had fizzled.

A CONGRESSMAN FEELS THE HEAT
California Rep. Gary Condit, 53, denied any involvement in the disappearance of intern Chandra Levy, 24, but finally admitted he'd had a "very close" relationship with her.

SHARK SUMMER
Suddenly, attacks were reported all over the U.S.—in California, North Carolina, Hawaii, Texas, and especially Florida (50 since January 2000). Experts say the surge was just a quirk of probability.

MILLIONAIRE IN SPACE
Dennis Tito, then 60, paid a reported $20 million to Russia and took 900 hours of cosmonaut training to buy the world's first space vacation last May. "It was paradise," he said when he returned to Earth.

The Best & Worst Of Everything

OUR ANNUAL YEAR-END ROUNDUP

On Our Cover...

The tragic events of Sept. 11 may have shattered our nation's sense of security, but the American spirit remains unscathed and stronger than ever. No single image embodies this more than Thomas Franklin's photograph of three New York City firefighters raising Old Glory at Ground Zero. As Franklin, a staff photographer for* The Record *in Bergen County, N.J., told* PARADE, *"It was a very unceremonious event. I'm not sure they were aware anyone was taking their picture." Franklin's photo echoes the famous World War II image of U.S. Marines raising our flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. It will stand for this moment and for all time as a testament to America's enduring resolve.

Heroes (l-r): New York City firefighters George Johnson, Dan McWilliams and Billy Eisengrein.

A number of unforgettable images and events, particularly those of Sept. 11, made 2001 a year to remember. We've highlighted some of them in our annual roundup of the year's highs and lows in sports, entertainment and politics. We've also scoured newspapers and magazines from around the country for peculiar moments that didn't make big national headlines. Enjoy!

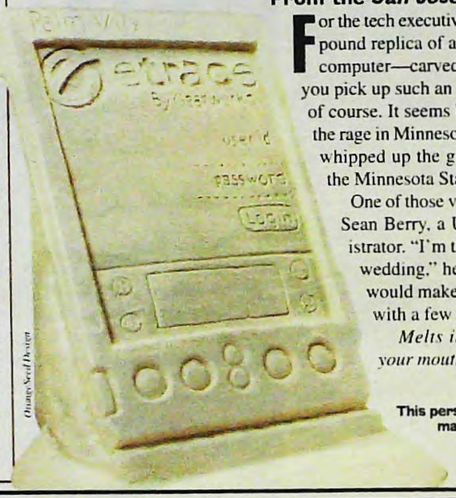
Best News to Spread

From the *San Jose Mercury News*

For the tech executive who has it all: a 50-pound replica of a Palm VIIx handheld computer—carved in butter. Where do you pick up such an item? Why, on eBay, of course. It seems butter sculpting is all the rage in Minnesota where a local artist whipped up the giant, edible Palm for the Minnesota State Fair.

One of those vying for the prize was Sean Berry, a Unix systems administrator. "I'm the best man at a geek wedding," he says, "and I think it would make the best centerpiece, with a few crusty rolls."

Melts in your hand—not in your mouth.



This personal digital assistant is made entirely of butter. In order to own one, you may have to grease a few palms.

Mynah offense: Lawyers say this bird's word wouldn't hold up in a divorce case.

Best "Gotcha"

From the *Chicago Tribune*

A Chinese housewife sought a divorce claiming the family's talking bird dropped clues on her husband's illicit affair. The woman said she uncovered the affair when their mynah began saying things such as "divorce," "I love you" and "Be patient" after it overheard the husband's telephone calls with his mistress.

She hoped the bird could testify in court, but lawyers were not optimistic.

Worst Tip Sheet

From *The Charlotte* (N.C.) *Observer*

A firm hired by the state of Oregon to train welfare recipients distributed a tips sheet that recommended, among other things, rooting through trash bins to save money. The state recalled the sheet after receiving complaints that it was demeaning. "This was a high-profile mistake," said the director of the Department of Human Services.

Our tip: Train the tippers.

Best New Religion

From *The Arizona Republic*

Centuries after King Arthur, a new order of knight is wandering Britain—and Luke Skywalker would be proud. When asked their religious affiliation on the 2001 census forms, many Britons wrote in "Jedi Knight"—so many, in fact, that the government was forced to give "Jedi Knight" its own category when compiling census results.

Stay tuned for the census sequel: "The Empire Strikes Back."

Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker: The Force lives on in England.

Worst Tourist Trap

***The Commercial Appeal* (Memphis, Tenn.)**

As a result of sightseers clambering atop a floating dead whale and patting great white sharks that were eating the carcass, Australia may be forced to change its laws "to protect people too stupid to protect themselves." Environment Minister Iain Evans said he'll ask his department to consider regulations preventing people from coming within 109 yards of a dead whale. Evans said he was shocked at the tourists' disregard for safety.

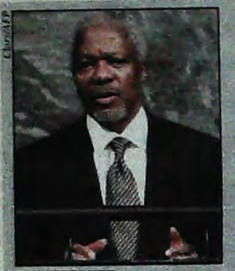
It's time for a new bumper sticker: Save The Tourists.

Best Major

From the *Times Union* (Albany, N.Y.)

At least 1400 students at eight universities are majoring in...golf. One school just opened a $1.1 million "learning laboratory"—a model clubhouse.

Fore...what?



Chris AP

PEACEMAKER
The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the U.N. and to Kofi Annan, its Secretary General.

BOY WIZARD MAKES MOVIE MAGIC
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone—the film version of the first of the phenomenally popular children's books—broke records at the box office, grossing $100 million in just five days.

Moviestore/Warner Bros.

AP/Wide World

TALIBAN STRONGHOLDS TOPPLE
Spurred by U.S. air support, Afghanistan's Northern Alliance seized Kabul (above). Later, the fall of Kandahar ended the Taliban regime.

EXECUTION
Timothy McVeigh was put to death for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

AP/Wide World

Worst Team Mascot
From *The Baltimore Sun*

The El Paso (Tex.) Buzzards of the Western Professional Hockey League have been struggling at the gate, so their owners decided to throw a new team nickname out and see if it would stick. The name: The Cow Pattys. They also have a new logo: a cartoon cow holding a hockey stick and wearing a helmet. Behind the bovine is a steaming pile of manure.

General Manager Tommy Benizio said he and marketing consultant Josh O'Bryne "got our thinking caps on and after a while, it was like we just stepped in it!"

Smells like a winner!

Best Excuse for a Hangover
From the *Los Angeles Times*

After years of communism, one Russian has created a drinking buddy you don't have to share your hooch with. Inventor Dmitry Zhurin (or his colleague Sergei Lykov, depending on the news source consulted) told reporters that he had introduced a working model of a talking vodka bottle that proposes its own toasts (roughly translated: "Another round, then?" and "To our beautiful women!"). The battery doesn't last long after its first use, but then, as Zhurin pointed out, the vodka usually doesn't, either.

Reuters/The San Francisco Chronicle

Emily Duffy: She says her Bra Ball was first.

Best Supporting Artist
From the *San Francisco Chronicle*

Bra Ball, The Sequel. A nearly 1200-pound art installation made of 14,000 bras appeared on the sidewalk in front of San Francisco's Pier 23 Café in April. However, the bodacious masterpiece of Point Richmond artist Nicolino is not the first such sculpture to bust onto the body-image art scene. El Cerrito artist Emily Duffy says Nicolino stole her idea. She had unveiled her own "Bra Ball" earlier this year in Oakland.

"He should be ashamed," says Duffy. "I'm the sole copyright holder. I've heard that his sculpture is larger, but everyone knows that size doesn't matter."

A bra-zen theft indeed.

Worst Solution for Snoring
From *The New York Times*

Anyone who has ever wanted to send a snorer to the moon may be on to something. A new study published in *The American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care* says weightlessness virtually eliminates snoring.

The study's lead author, Dr. Ann R. Elliott of the University of California at San Diego, wrote that the results suggested that the effect of gravity on the horizontal body played an important role in sleep apneas on Earth.

She also noted that the drop-off in snoring was less marked when astronauts were dreaming.

Who will hear you if you float away?

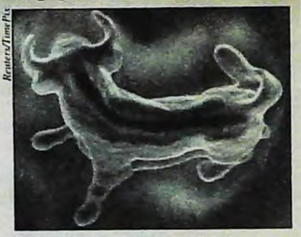
Best Fashion for Flu Season
From the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

An apple a day will keep the doctor away. A Japanese firm, Fuji Spinning Co. Ltd., says they have developed a T-shirt that may do the same thing. They have come up with a fiber containing a chemical called pro-vitamin that, through contact with human skin, turns into vitamin C. "The chemical responds to the warmth of human skin and is absorbed into the body, after which it becomes vitamin C," the spokesman said. A T-shirt made of the fiber, tentatively called V-up, could have the equivalent vitamin content of two lemons and last through 30 washings. The company plans on doing the same with other vitamins, as well as producing such items as vitamin-infused underwear.

Hmm...Viagra-infused boxers?

Best Understatement
From *The Lexington* (Ky.) *Herald-Leader*

Scientists in Japan have created a tiny sculpture of a bull. "Tiny" is actually too generous to describe the plastic artwork. It's about 10 microns—roughly the size of a red blood cell and



Reuters/Time Pix

"Tiny" the Bull: A piece of art minimalists would love.

was made by using very precisely controlled lasers to heat-form liquid resin. While the item itself is little more than a curiosity, it was created to show the kinds of miniature detailing that can be done using the technique.

A little bull is a welcome change.

Worst Investment.com
From the *Industry Standard*

In the good old days, WebMagic turned must-have Internet domains into promising companies. Now it's time for the great URL fire sale. The Pasadena, Calif., company is slashing prices on more than 300 domain names. They range from the tasty (*Peas.com*) to the mundane (*Legalexperts.com*). Two that might still fetch a good price today: *Liquidator.com* and *Sacked.com*.

From WebMagic to WebTragic.

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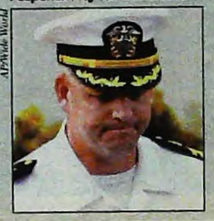
GEORGE W. TAKES OFFICE
After a bitterly contested election, resolved by the Supreme Court five weeks later, the nation's 43rd President was sworn in.

JORDAN RETURNS
Former NBA superstar Michael Jordan, 38, ended his three-year retirement and returned to the court with the Washington Wizards.

NOT A LITTLE GIRL ANYMORE
Britney Spears, now 20, topped the music charts with her new album, and drew comparisons to Madonna.



ACCIDENT AT SEA
Cmdr. Scott Waddle—captain of the Navy sub *U.S.S. Greeneville*, which crashed into a Japanese fishing boat, killing 9—took responsibility for the disaster.

Best Job Performance
From *The Miami Herald*

The winner of the Miss Brazil pageant, Juliana Borges, 22, admitted she had extensive plastic surgery, including breast implants, liposuction and operations to remove birthmarks and to fix her protruding ears. She also had silicone inserted into her cheeks and jaw. "Of course they helped," said Miss Borges. "After all, winning the contest was my plan when I did it."

Her success gives new meaning to the term "shape up."

Worst Rain Check
From *The Seattle Times*

The Yakama Indian Nation tribe of Washington State sent the Bonneville Power Administration—a federal agency that markets power from federal dams—a bill for $32,000 for performing ritual rain ceremonies.

"We're not paying, even though it was well-intended," said BPA spokesman Mike Hansen, who said his agency was willing to listen to tribal proposals. "Unfortunately, no proposal came forward. They just went out and performed the ceremony and then sent us the bill."

Several tribal members held two events in the mountains. A third, much larger and more costly event was canceled after the BPA rejected the first bill. "It was pretty much a blow to me," said tribal council member Randy Settler. "We've had more rain since those events."

They decided to "just dew it."

Best Ghost Story
From the *Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, Utah)

Mobile phones are killing off ghosts, according to a British expert who has spent years researching the occult.

Tony Cornell, of the Society for Psychical Research, told the *Sunday Express* that reports of ghost sightings started to decline when mobile phones were introduced 15 years ago.

Ghostbusters: The more free minutes you use, the less you'll be spooked.

"Ghost sightings have remained consistent for centuries," said Cornell. "But with the introduction of mobile phones, ghost sightings began to decline to the point where now we are receiving none." Haunted tourist attractions in Britain could be under threat if the number of cell phones continues to grow.

Apparently, paranormal events, which some attribute to unusual electrical activity, could be drowned out by the electronic noise produced by phone calls and text messages.

The phone bills scared 'em away.

Worst Camping Buddy
From the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Jackie Bibby, the self-styled "Texas Snakeman," crawled into a sleeping bag containing 109 rattlesnakes to set a new record. "I would have gone higher, but we ran out of snakes," said the Snakeman. He also tied a previous record by dangling eight rattlesnakes from his mouth.

Meanwhile, Bibby said, he's been receiving calls from Europe and Japan to put on snake-handling demonstrations and stunts. "I'm ready to do what I do almost any time," he claims. "I'm like lunchmeat—I'm always ready."

Like lunchmeat?

Worst Company Outing
From *The Houston Chronicle*

At a motivational seminar designed to improve employee bonding, 10 Burger King executives suffered first- and second-degree burns while walking barefoot on burning charcoal. "The first two steps were all right," said Kim Miller, director of marketing for Burger King. "Then, of course, it got hotter. I was test-marketing our newest sandwich—fillet of sole."

Maybe they should stick to cookin' hamburgers.

Best Boy Band
From *Business Week*

The Martians are coming! *Butt-Ugly Martians*, that is. And they're being eyed as the biggest kiddie craze since Ninja Turtles. Nickelodeon will begin airing the animated series early next year. British kids were so crazy about the martians, following a 13-episode run in February, that the show is now rerun almost daily. Set in 2053, the show revolves around the wacky adventures of three teenage aliens who invade Earth and disguise their identities as the faux boy band, "Boyz to Martians."

We'll butt out, thanks.

Martians only a mother could love.

ANTHRAX ATTACK
Lethal letters, their origins still unknown, were shockingly potent as they moved through the U.S. postal system.

Worst Job
From *Newsweek*

Some Chinese have had it with toeing the line. In the crowded city of Guangzhou, lines outside hospitals, banks and train stations have gotten so long that folks are hiring new "standing-in-line professionals," mainly migrant workers, to do their waiting for them at 60 cents a pop. Says one man whose wife waits too, "We make more than the county chief does."

At this rate, there are bound to be waiting lists for waiters.

Best Public Display of Affection
From the *San Antonio Express-News*

Public sex in Sun City West has got to come to a stop. At least that's what the Arizona retirement community's recreation officials are saying. There have been two dozen sightings over the past year of senior citizens engaged in sexual activity at several recreational sites—pools and spas, as well as golf courses and golf carts, park benches and cars in parking lots. And residents are complaining.

"When you talk of sex in Sun City West, people kind of chuckle," said a spokeswoman for the group. But the issue is serious, she said. "We don't want to deny anybody their right to healthy sexual expression. We just want them to do it in a more appropriate place."

Oh, those crazy kids!

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RINGING in the EARS

If you suffer any of the following symptoms: ringing in the ears, or buzzing, hissing, whistling, roaring or other sounds, you may be suffering from tinnitus. A new book has just been released that reveals how to find relief from this condition through new all-natural means.

This new book—*The Tinnitus Handbook*—reveals what causes unwanted noises and how to stop them safely and naturally—even if you have suffered from tinnitus for years.

You'll discover the latest natural and alternative ways to stop unwanted ear noises and you'll learn why these all-natural methods have worked for so many people—even when other treatments failed to bring relief.

The book shows you precise trigger points that help eliminate ear noises, how a trace mineral deficiency can cause tinnitus, a simple breathing technique that "cleanses" the inner ear to quiet unwanted noises, how gently massaging a specific part of your neck often brings relief. You'll discover how certain dietary changes can bring dramatic results, and how one noted doctor treats tinnitus with two particular nutrients.

The book gives you a full explanation of tinnitus—in plain English—and why millions of people suffer from this condition.

Many people are suffering from tinnitus symptoms because they do not know of the new all-natural treatments revealed in this book.

Get all the facts. Order *The Tinnitus Handbook* now on a trial basis. The book is only $14.95 *(plus $3 P&H)*. To order, send your name and address with check or money order to: United Research Publishers Dept. RB-32; 132 North El Camino Real #T; Encinitas CA 92024. For MasterCard and VISA, send card number and expiration date. You may return the book within 90 days for a refund if not completely satisfied.

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If you suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and experience constipation, bloating, diarrhea, gas, stomach cramps, heartburn, pain and discomfort, you should know about a new book, ***The Irritable Bowel Syndrome & Gastrointestinal Solutions Handbook.***

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Here's what satisfied readers are reporting: Mrs. Castor said, "after 2 years of searching for relief I ordered your book and finally found relief." Mr. Allen wrote that, thanks to the book, he has been free from IBS symptoms for six months. Mr. Swanson said his wife has been bothered by IBS for years. "She followed your simple tips in the book and is much improved. Our doctor wants a copy."

Many people are putting up with IBS, stomach and digestive problems because they are unaware of new, natural treatments revealed in this book and the welcome relief that is now available.

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Sciatica Pain?

If you ever experience Sciatica symptoms such as:

- **Pain in your buttocks**
- **Pain in your lower back**
- **Pain shooting down one or both legs**
- **Numbness in your legs or feet**

you should get a copy of the book, *The Sciatica Relief Handbook*. The book reveals natural ways to prevent Sciatica flare-ups and how to relieve Sciatica pain.

The book contains up-to-date information on Sciatica—what causes painful symptoms, how they can be relieved naturally, and how to protect yourself from future Sciatica problems. The book gives you specific facts on natural, alternative and medical treatments. You'll learn about these treatments and find out how and why they work.

For example, you'll discover how a simple exercise brings relief, and you'll learn simple self-help tips that prevent Sciatica problems. You'll discover what nutrients help soothe the Sciatic nerve, and what specific foods may prevent Sciatica flare-ups and promote healing.

The book even explains in detail about the Sciatic nerve, the various ways it may become inflamed and cause pain, how to find out specifically what causes distress, what to do and what not to do—and why over 165 million people experience Sciatica and lower back pain.

Here's what satisfied readers of the book report: "Just one simple exercise in the book did the trick—I did the exercise while watching TV and no longer have pain." One woman now sleeps like a baby at night following one simple tip covered in the book. Thanks to the book, one man is now dancing again after suffering on and off for years.

Get all the facts. *The Sciatica Relief Handbook* is available for $14.95 *(plus $3 P&H)*.

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Guilbert/Bauer/Gamma Liaison

COMEBACK CONTINUES
Lance Armstrong (r), 30, who nearly died of cancer in 1996, won the prestigious Tour de France for the third year in a row.

GOODBYE...

Thurber/Corbis Outline; Wilmoker/CP/Rama; AP/Wide World; Preston/Corbis Outline

Among those we lost in 2001 (clockwise, from top right): George Harrison, Jack Lemmon, Aaliyah, Katharine Graham.

Worst Education Reform
From the *Akron* (Ohio) *Beacon Journal*

If a Belgian organization has its way, there will be a substitute for the sugary soft drinks gulped down by grade-school children: beer. Limburg Beer Friends asked schools in Hasselt, Belgium, to serve beer with an alcohol level of 1% to 2.5%. And kids seemed psyched about the suds. "About 75% gave a positive reaction," said the beer society's president.

Bob Le Corbo/Stock Market

Kiddies in Belgium may be able to kick back a few before nap time.

Worst Cover-Up
From *Newsday* (New York)

The State Bar of Wisconsin has forced sculptor David Wanner to put a shirt on his statue of a topless woman symbolizing justice. One of the association's committees commissioned Wanner to sculpt the classical figure of "Lady Justice." Even though his topless clay model had been approved, employees complained.

Next on the committee's agenda: Should legal briefs be lengthened?

Best Musical Refrain
From *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

Most people are susceptible to Stuck Tune Syndrome, wherein a piece of music (often an annoying one) worms itself into the mind and cannot be dynamited out. The University of Cincinnati's Prof. James Kellaris says repetitiveness (such as Queen's "We Will Rock You"), simplicity ("If You're Happy And You Know It, Clap Your Hands") and incongruity (the song "America" from *West Side Story*) are key factors. Antidotes include passing on the stuck tune to someone else by humming a few bars.

Best Note To Swallow
From *The Washington Post*

The ensemble has nine musicians and one cook, and after a one-hour performance, they eat their instruments. The First Vienna Vegetable Orchestra blows carved-out carrots, taps turnips, claps with eggplant cymbals and rustles parsley and greens, all in the creation of an experimental sound that eventually winds up—literally—in the audience's stomachs. As the concert progresses, the musicians toss their instruments into a pot, which the cook stirs—rhythmically, of course. After a finale of loud pureeing, listeners and musicians feast on the fare that has resulted from this smorgasbord of sound.

As 2001 nears its finale, we hope your New Year begins on an equally healthy and happy note.

Wishing you

this holiday season.

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A man brought low by loss celebrates the life of his friend.

His Memory Lives In My Son

BY MICHAEL O'SHEA

James Aronovsky

The author with his son, Mychal O'Shea, at one month old.

LAST DECEMBER, I MARRIED AN AMAZINGLY wonderful woman with two great kids. I moved from New Jersey to California to be with them, and my friends couldn't believe how quickly I was adjusting to my new life; I was even getting the knack of sixth-grade math.

"You've gone from the fast lane to the car-pool lane," observed my sister, Anne. "And you seem to be loving it." She was right: I couldn't have imagined being happier, especially that day in February when I learned my wife, Tauna, was pregnant.

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The months passed. We began decorating our home and making plans for our new baby. Everything seemed to be going so well.

UPI/Wide World

Father Mychal Judge, who died Sept. 11.

Then, on Sept. 11, I received a phone call from a friend who lives back in New Jersey. He told me to turn on the television. I could tell it was bad from his voice. The Twin Towers were burning, he said, and the two ambulances from the Sea Bright First Aid Squad, where I volunteered as an EMT for more than 20 years, were headed from New Jersey to New York City to help out.

Later, glued to the TV like so many others, I watched the names of the first dead scroll across the screen. My stomach churned: "Rev. Mychal Judge, chaplain, New York City Fire Department" flashed by. Father Mike, my good friend...Father Mike, one of the most wonderful people I'd ever known...was dead. He'd been killed by falling debris after giving last rites to a fireman and was carried out of the smoke-filled building moments before its total collapse.

I had first met Father Mike 15 years earlier at New York's Bellevue Hospital, where he would say Mass and give Communion to patients. He ministered to my friend Steven McDonald, a New York City police officer who had been shot and paralyzed. Later, Father Mike and I helped out after TWA Flight 800 crashed in the waters off Long Island. I worked as an EMT on a Coast Guard cutter; Father Mike comforted the families of the victims.

He was a man of extraordinary compassion. Whenever Father Mike had money in his pockets, he'd give it to the homeless. As he liked to joke, the only things he owned were his Franciscan robes and sandals. (He never wore socks.)

Last Christmas, I took Father Mike and some other friends to dinner. Afterward, he gathered up everyone's leftovers and took them back to his parish to give to the needy. He was a good man. And now he was dead.

A few days after the tragedy at the World Trade Center, I was in New York attending Father Mike's funeral. Outside the church, hundreds waited to pay homage—priests and nuns, recovering alcoholics and the homeless, people with AIDS he had helped when nobody else would, as well as dozens of debris-encrusted cops and firefighters who came directly from Ground Zero.

Inside, Father Mike's fire helmet had been placed on his casket. As the cops and firefighters passed by on their way to take Communion, they gently touched it. Later, many recalled his warmth and generosity, his earthy humor and unconventional personality. His energy was legendary: He took so many phone calls, he burned up an answering machine every year. Yet he was never too busy to stay in touch with people he'd assisted, writing cards to women who had lost children and to children who had lost mothers—not to mention the letters he wrote in the middle of the night to friends in need.

Others noted his endearing vanity. His friend and fellow Franciscan, Father Michael Duffy, recalled that when Father Mike got the news that the World Trade Center was on fire, he quickly put on his uniform, then went to the mirror and sprayed his thick, gray hair. Everyone agreed that he'd be posted at the gates of heaven now, to put in a good word for those who followed him there.

I cried for days, it seemed—at the funeral and afterward. Back in California, I was as low as I'd ever been. I was sad, moody and had trouble sleeping. I couldn't stop thinking about Father Mike and the thousands who died at the World Trade Center.

Then, in the wee hours of Oct. 23, Tauna went into labor. At 11:47 a.m., I helped deliver a healthy, 7-pound, 15-ounce boy. We decided to name him Mychal.

I'm such a jerk about my son. I spend hours each day holding him. I can't stop hugging him and looking at him—and e-mailing photos of him to everyone I know. He is so gorgeous, and I think he already has Father Mike's great Irish smile. Someday, I hope, he'll have some of his other qualities—his humor and compassion, his courage and desire to help. For now, my son Mychal helps to ease my pain and to honor the lives of all those good people, including Father Mike, who perished on that bright autumn day in September. ■

Contributing Editor Michael O'Shea is the author of "Fitness on Parade."

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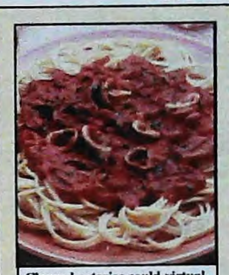

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(By Frank K. Wood)

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BY LYRIC WALLWORK WINIK

Parade's Special

Intelligence Report

Shawn Jones/Picture Desk Intermountain News.com

Sobriety checkpoint: Even "designated drivers" admit to drinking and driving.

Can We Stay Safer On The Road?

Overall traffic fatalities are down, but alcohol-related deaths rose slightly from 1999 to 2000, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Who drives drunk and when? The Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. reports that drivers are most likely to drink and drive after a family gathering—not a friend's party. And women are more likely than men to get behind the wheel after a couple of drinks or if they are within five miles of home. Even 29% of "designated drivers" admit to drinking and driving.

What can stop this? Stiffer, better-enforced laws, say the insurers, and a personal connection to a drunk-driving tragedy. To get educated about drinking and driving, to learn the blood-alcohol concentration for your gender and weight and to discover how to acquire a safe-driving pledge card, visit *www.progressive.com* and click on "Home Safely for the Holidays."

Drivers are most likely to drink and drive after a family gathering.

What Do You Do After Disco?

Bettmann/Corbis

Studio 54 in its heyday. Now the stars want to kick back and relax

Ian Schrager founded two of New York's hottest discos in the 1970s and '80s: Studio 54 and the Palladium. But with Madonna a mom and the Bee Gees doing nostalgia tours, what's a guy to do? Hotels. He owns 16 of them. "Hotels and clubs are both about entertainment," he says. "Both lift people's spirits." Schrager still attracts celebrities—from Russell Crowe to Elizabeth Hurley. And how will he spend New Year's Eve? Quietly.

Baby Boom

Last September's tragedy may lead to a run on bassinets next summer—at least in New York. "People are saying, 'We decided we didn't want to wait anymore,'" notes Dr. Michael Silverstein, an obstetrician at New York University Medical Center, whose office is being swamped with pregnant women. "They're saying that having a child is life-affirming."

How To Master Uncertainty

People who do best during times of transition see it as a pathway to something better. That's what Candice Carpenter—a founder of iVillage.com, *a women's Internet network—learned when she talked to business professionals and counselors. How to prepare for change? "Get a good education, plan on having about six jobs in your life and build a nest egg of one year's salary," says Carpenter. "Taking economic uncertainty off the table makes change much easier." These and other lessons are in her new book,* Chapters.

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BY JAMES BRADY

In Step With

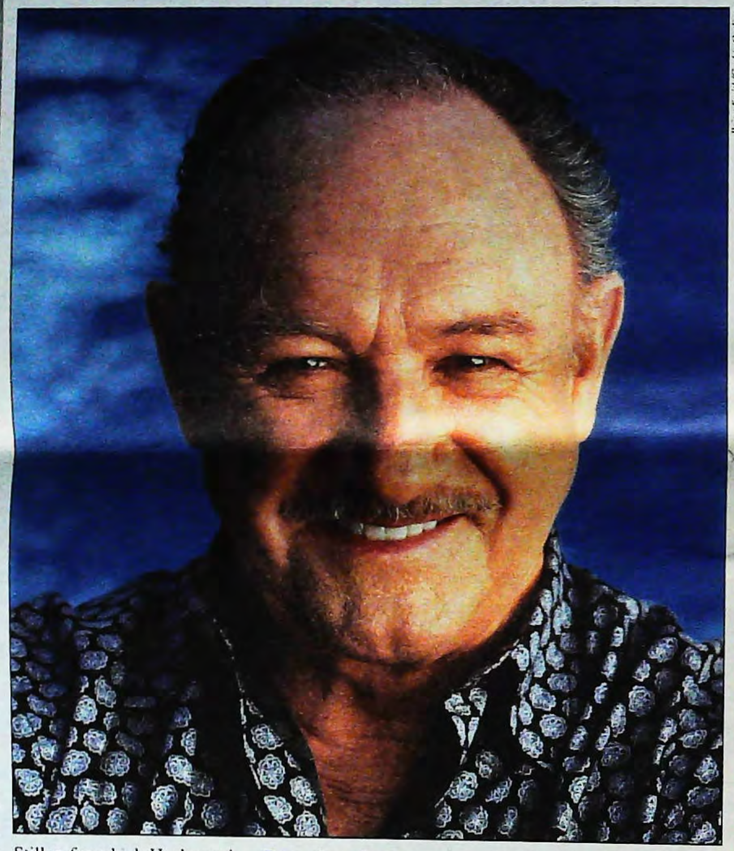
GENE HACKMAN

Personal: Born Jan. 30, 1930, in San Bernadino, Calif. Married to Faye Maltese, 1956-82; one son, Christopher, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Leslie. Married to Betsy Arakawa since 1991.

Films: Include *Lilith*, 1964; *Bonnie and Clyde*, 1967; *I Never Sang for My Father*, 1970; *The French Connection*, 1971; *The Conversation*, 1974; *Superman*, 1978; *Reds*, 1981; *Mississippi Burning*, 1988; *Unforgiven*, 1992; *Get Shorty*, 1995; *Behind Enemy Lines*, 2001; *Heist*, 2001; *The Royal Tenenbaums*, 2001.

Television: Includes *The U.S. Steel Hour*, 1959-62; *Shadow on the Land*, 1968.

Theater: Includes *Any Wednesday*, 1964; *Death and the Maiden*, 1992.



THAT WONDERFUL actor and all-around regular guy Gene Hackman (who was recently involved in a road confrontation with two guys reportedly half his age) was calling from his place up in the New Mexico mountains and talking about the three movies he's in this season. "Unfortunately, I'm in the habit of taking every job that comes along," he said, "so I never stop working. It's a hangover from the days when I was broke and needed the work."

When he was broke, the young Hackman was living in New York and studying acting. "I'd been there about a year when Dustin Hoffman came to town," said Hackman. "We'd known each other at the Pasadena Playhouse, so he moved in, and we began to hang out with Bobby Duvall, whom I knew. Later, I was introduced to Warren Beatty, and fortunately, he had a movie job [*Bonnie and Clyde*] for me."

Hackman's current films are the very successful *Heist*, a crime drama written and directed by David Mamet and co-starring Danny DeVito; *The Royal Tenenbaums*, a dark comedy with Anjelica Huston and Ben Stiller, for which Hackman is already being talked about for another Oscar, and *Behind Enemy Lines*, about a Navy pilot shot down and lost in the Balkans, with Hackman playing the flyer's commander.

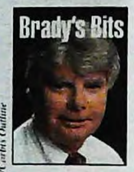
I asked Hackman about Oscar, since he has two already (his first as "Popeye Doyle" in *The French Connection* and a second as the vicious sheriff in *Unforgiven*). Is it still a thrill to be nominated? "I haven't even thought about it," said Hackman. "But it's always nice, and it helps the movie. The first nomination is thrilling. But this talk is premature."

Two-time Oscar-winner Gene Hackman says he's trying to "slow down" and take fewer roles. Yet, at 71, he has three movies out in the same season.

What's Mamet like? "A very bright guy with a good sense of humor," Hackman said, "though not a bundle of laughs on the set." And Danny DeVito? "We'd been working a couple of weeks on *Heist* when he arrived," he said. "It was like a breath of fresh air when he came on. A delight." So what is Hackman working on next?

"I don't have a movie job set up right now," he said. "I'm 71 years old, and I'm trying desperately to slow down. So I'll wait and see how these three do and then look around." PE

Brady's Bits



Brian Smith/Corbis Outline

Gene Hackman was born in San Bernadino, Calif., but grew up in Illinois and, with his parents' approval, joined the Marine Corps in 1946 at 16. "When my senior class at high school was in the classroom, there I was in China," said Hackman. "I was never a great Marine, but I had a lot of fun. I was pretty fit and a big kid, and I played football on the battalion team. When I got out of the Marines, I headed right for New York, looking for acting jobs."

I met Hackman a couple of years ago at a book party for his first novel, *Wake of the Perdido Star*. How did it do? "It did pretty well for a romantic sea story," said Hackman. "It sold a couple of hundred thousand copies. Now I'm working on another, very different, novel." In addition, Hackman continues to be a very active painter and also has been an auto racer. "I still have it in my head that I can do it," he said. "But now, all I drive is my city car—and pretend it's racing."

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

Ask Marilyn

Pretend you are a prisoner of war. Your captors will bring you as much food and water as you like, but you must choose one—and only one—food item for the entire term you are captive. You are confident you will be rescued sometime in the future, but you don't know when. Which food would you choose?
—M. Washburn, Casa Grande, Ariz.

Eggs and milk are considered virtually complete, but I think I might choose dog food instead. Living on eggs alone, which have high-quality protein and are an excellent food overall, I'd still lack vitamin C, so I'd develop scurvy over time. (I'd also have a calcium deficiency unless I ate the shell, which I guess I would.) With milk, even the kind that is commercially fortified with vitamins A and D, I'd still lack vitamin C and iron, so I'd be stuck with scurvy, along with serious anemia before too long. Plus, with either eggs or milk, I'd have to eat the cartons for fiber.

At this point, the dog food is starting to look pretty good! It's formulated with the intention of covering all the dietary needs of one healthy mammal (a dog), including the essentials that eggs and milk lack. (No cereal meant for humans is so complete.) Now, all I need to do is think about whether I'd prefer canned, dry or semi-moist!

If I suspect a piece of my mail is infected with anthrax, can I destroy the bacteria by nuking the letter in a microwave oven on full power for a certain period of time?
—Al Thiem, Cannon Falls, Minn.

No, you can't. Anthrax spores are extremely tough. Microwave ovens aren't powerful enough; and even if they were, spores don't contain the moisture that microwaves require to cause heat. The only way to disinfect mail at home is to boil it for 30 minutes or soak it in bleach. That is, unless you'd like to burn it!

Looking for the perfect food? Hint: It's probably not in your lunchbag.

What do the letters B, M, P and W have in common when pronouncing them?
—Daniel Willoth, Rockville, Md.

Try pronouncing them yourself, readers. The answer appears below.

I maintain that I can remember being held in my mother's arms and being baptized when I was one year old. My wife claims that this is scientifically impossible. Can you help settle this dispute?
—Bill Eisler, Stafford, Va.

I wouldn't dream of even trying—although such an early recollection is unlikely. This is far too sweet a memory to disturb.

Answer: They are the only letters that, when pronounced, require your lips to touch.

WHAT WOULD *YOU* SAY?

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Here's what *you'd* say:

"Speak softly and listen hard."
—Peter Dans, Cockeysville, Md.

"Speak softly and others will want to get close to you."
—Robin Lipman, San Diego, Calif.

"Speak softly and next time, don't bring your cell phone to the movies!"
—Maryann Edwards, Temecula, Calif.

Here's another one: Alexander Pope wrote, "To err is human, to forgive divine." What would *you* say? Fill in the blank with one or more words: "To err is human, _____."

If you have a question or comment for Marilyn vos Savant, who is listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records" Hall of Fame for "Highest IQ," send it to: Ask Marilyn, PARADE, 711 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Or send e-mail to *marilyn@parade.com* (please include name, city and state). Due to volume of mail, personal replies are not possible. Mail without a return address won't be processed.

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

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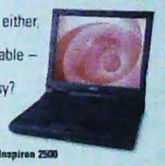

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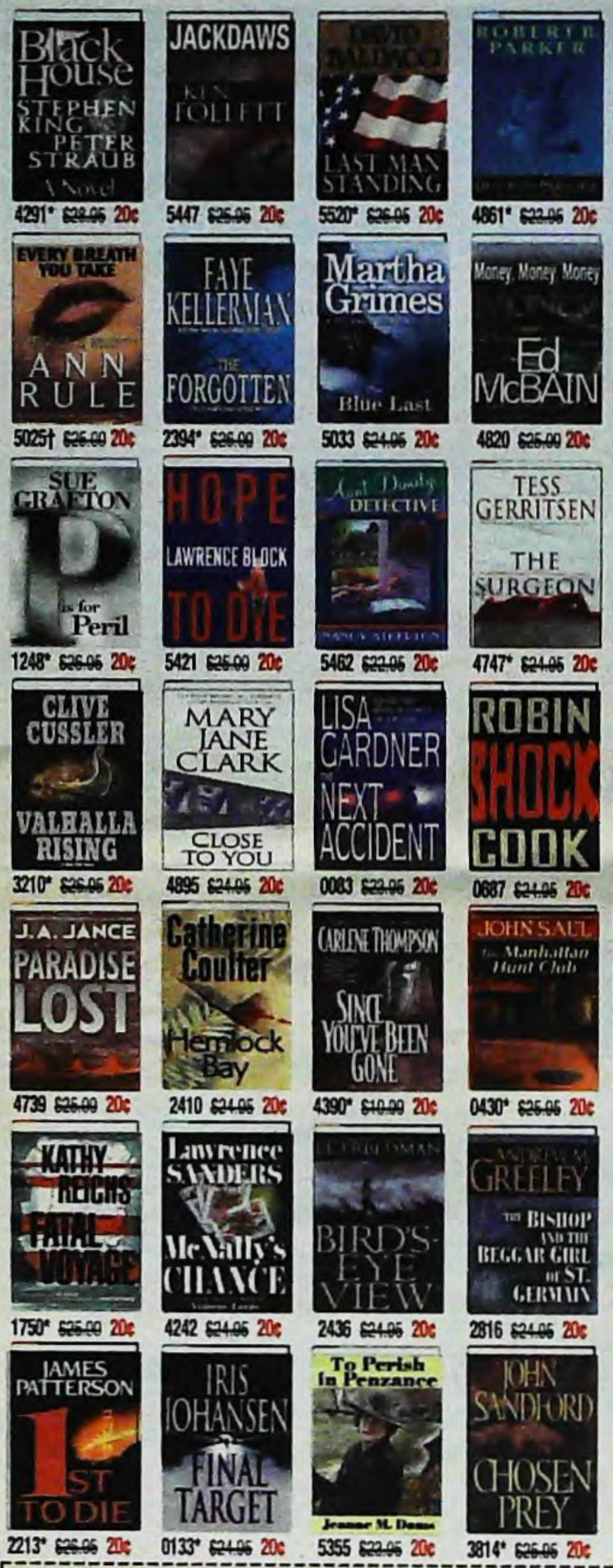

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